

communities. As citizens, we assert that the right to public worship must be respected and not restricted for any longer than is absolutely necessary. As the efforts of our people and their patience in the face of onerous restrictions produce reduced rates of infection, and as vaccination levels rise to increase the level of protection achieved, we expect that the public authorities will apply a human rights framework in setting priorities for the resumption of basic human activity. There is a compelling case on legal and moral grounds for the resumption of public worship to have a high priority as we plan the reopening of society.

This year our celebration of Easter is made all the more striking by the fact that in our day to day lives, the spirit of Holy Saturday with its waiting and longing, still continues. But is this not the way of all life, with one mystery hidden in, and carried by another. As we renew our baptismal promises, we pray for the strength and courage to remain as faithful witnesses to bring hope and healing in a world fragmented by a pandemic, conflict, poverty, ecological degradation, and entire populations destroyed by wars. In this time of hope and faith, together we echo the words of the Psalmist, singing, "This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad" (Ps 118: 24).

I wish all of you a glorious and blessed Easter. Find new faith and hope in this day of supreme hope: faith in Christ and hope in eternal life.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Weekend.

Sat 6.30pm Bernadette & John Keenan (An)

Sun 8.30am Paddy Gerrard (Rec Dec)

Sun 8.30am Gerard Travers (An)



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Dec members of Ursulines of Jesus

Tues 10.00am Paddy Gerrard

Tues 10.00am Paddy Gerrard **Sat** 6.30pm Pat Walsh (1st An)

Tues 10.00am Peggy McLoughlin
John Byrne 1st An

Wed 10.00am Eleanor Pieries **Sun** 8.30am Special intention

Wed 10.00am Paddy Gerrard

Thurs 10.00am Michael Gallagher **Sun** 11.15am Margaret Prendergast

Thurs 10.00am Micheline Pieries Sean Byrne (1st An)

Fri 10.00am Nancy Fagan

Fri 10.00am In Thanksgiving

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

Our Lady of Visitation Church are very happy to welcome people back to Sunday Mass in the Church. As before everyone must wear a mask in church.

Seats marked for social distance and hand sanitiser to be used on way in. Our church only holds 37 so sorry in advance if we have to turn someone away.

We have a mass at 10am in English and our Irish mass is at 11.30 am until July.

We are so looking forward to having mass in our Church again.



Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr John Collins 8405948

Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes - Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277

(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)

Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon -Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)

Website: Website: www.swords-parish.com Email:

stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com

Facebook: St. Colmille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam



My beloved father (Joseph), all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power



Ascension Sunday

We are asked to return to our Galilees

"The Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia"

Newsletter Sunday 16th May 2021

(continued from last week). In tonight's Gospel passage, the women went to the tomb, out of faithfulness to their crucified friend and master. While death did not have the final word for them, it did take their Lord away. Yet what they discovered at the tomb was beyond their comprehension: "There is no need for alarm...He has been raised, he is not here" (Mark 16:6). Christ was not where he had been placed. He had been raised, and... "he is going before you to Galilee." As one scholar put it, "Christ is on the loose." This is a word of hope. It is addressed not only to the women at the tomb, but also to us, today. **We are asked to return to our Galilees**, to the places we are at home, to reflect afresh the significance of all Jesus said and did, in the light of his having been raised by God. Because Christ has gone before us in life and in death, he gives us a new vision and brings us hope and the courage to carry on despite the pain and uncertainty sown in these difficult days, and at all times.

We are of course impatient to be liberated from the restrictions which we find so difficult. Our celebration of the joy of Easter in the context of the pandemic is tempered by the need to wait still longer for the day when we can embrace our loved ones again. As Christians, we know that being faithful disciples requires us to put flesh on the self-giving of Jesus, particularly His solidarity with the weak and the vulnerable. As a community of faith, our sadness and our grief at not being able to come together to share the Eucharist, are also a communion with the sadness and grief of Christ.

When we listen deeply to Saint Paul on Holy Thursday, "the blessing cup" is not only "communion with the blood of Christ" (see 1Cor 10:16), but the sweat and tears of our love are also a communion with sweat, tears and blood of Christ.

As our faith has deepened over this past year, we have come to the realisation that, while the Eucharist is the summit and source of the life of faith, it is not the totality of the life of faith. The Bread of Life is not limited to the Eucharist, but the Lord nourishes his people in his word (see Dei Verbum §21), and in the ever-present Spirit who rises up within us as we pray, and when give of ourselves in love (see Rom 8:26).

As a Church, we have no wish to compound the public health crisis by encouraging gatherings that are unsafe, or which result in dangerous levels of movement across

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*May the Lord be a sure path beneath your feet,
a bright light before you,
a kindly shepherd behind you;
this day, this night and always.....St. Colmcille (Celebrating 1500 years)*



Re-Opening

The reopening went very well. A special thank you to the stewards (in both churches) without whom it would not be possible.

It was also very generous of Morgan to mark the opening with music and singing. Speaking of singing, we cannot as a congregation sing at Mass for the foreseeable future.

Communions and Confirmations

As I'm sure you are aware these Sacraments are not permitted at the moment and again for the foreseeable future.

1st and 2nd Collections

At every Mass, weekday and weekend there will be collection boxes situated around the Church. If you cannot make the Sunday Mass, but are able to go to the weekday Mass, you can make your weekly contribution during the weekday Mass. Thank You. *One contribution per week and not one every day!!!*

Newsletters and Missalettes

This is just a reminder. The Newsletters and Missalettes are left out for the weekend Masses. Please take them **BUT** bring them home with you. In these Covid times leaflets should not be picked up, read and put back again. Please, please take home with you.

Seating

St. Colmcille's has been marked out to observe social distancing. With the 2 metre rule the Church can only accommodate 48 people.

More than 48

What happens when we reach the 48 limit? When that happens the volunteer stewards will inform you that the Church is full, that it has reached the limit demanded by Government regulations.

*It will be awful to be informed that you cannot come in to participate and celebrate in the Mass. **It will also be awful for the volunteer who informs you of this!***

EASTER - Liturgy/Prayer Service

I will continue this for the month of MAY on **Thursday Evening at 7.00pm**

This Liturgy/Prayer Service can be viewed through the Parish Webcam and should last about 30 minutes

The webcam can be accessed through the Parish website, **www.swords-parish.com**

The Sunday Obligation

In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass

Ministers of the Eucharist

If you are a Minister of the Eucharist and would like to be included in the roster for weekends - Saturday Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 8.30am & 11.15am, please email Colette at stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com, with your preferred Mass time. Due to the current restriction in numbers only one Eucharistic Minister will be at each Mass.

The Ascension of the Lord - (World Communications Day)

The Ascension, which is one of the chief feasts of the Church's year, marks the close of the appearances of Jesus which took place after his resurrection and celebrates his exaltation to the Father. It is an essential element of the resurrection of the Lord. It is portrayed as having taken place variously, even by the same author, on the evening of Easter Sunday and forty days later. It underlines the teaching that it is from Heaven that the exalted Christ exercises his power over heaven and earth. (Source: St. Paul's Missal).

Bethany Bereavement Support Group are offering telephone support, please contact Sr. Mary - 8404323 from Sunday 16th May to Saturday 22nd May. Please phone Sr. Mary from 6-9.30pm. More details on the Parish website. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

Mass Intentions- How can a book a Mass during these Covid times

- 1) You can email your request to the Parish Office at stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com
- 2) Call to the Sacristy *before Mass* between 9.40am and 9.55am and *after Mass* from 10.30am to 10.45am or by phone 01-8400547

Scripture Note –The Ascension of the Lord

The reading from Acts describes the ascension of Jesus. It also shows how Jesus, now in the glorious presence of his Father, continues to act through the Holy Spirit and through his followers.

The Gospel is concerned with the Lord's ascension and the missionary charge he gave his apostles. The preaching of the apostles was to have the same effect as the preaching of Jesus. The reference to picking up snakes and drinking poison is not to be taken literally.

According to the Middle Easter mentality hyperbole is an accepted way of making a point – through the power of Jesus the apostles will triumph over all evils.

The apostles are to challenge people of all times and places either to believe or reject the Gospel. The statement that equates belief in Christ with salvation and disbelief with condemnation, can't be preached as bluntly as that. Today disbelief springs from many factors, not least from the poor witness given by those who claim to believe in Jesus.

The theological meaning of the feast is expressed in the Second Reading: god has glorified Jesus, raising him above all earthly powers, and making him head of the Church and Lord of creation.

The ascension of Jesus is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not represent his removal from the earth, but his constant presence everywhere on earth.

(Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)